

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 16-17 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 5 and 7, and add new claims 20-22 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 7, further comprising means for monitoring input/output performance of said partitions.
3. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 7, further comprising means for an operator to instruct input/output allocation for each partition.
4. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 7, further comprising means for booking input/output allocation for each partition.
5. (Currently Amended) A computer comprising:
 - one or more CPUs;
 - a main memory; and
 - one or more input/output means, whereinsaid computer is ~~capable of being~~ divided into a plurality of partitions,
said computer further comprises means for controlling allocation of the input/output means for the partitions, means for monitoring input/output performance of said partitions, means for prescribing an allocation ratio of the input/output means for each of the partitions independently from an allocation ratio of the CPUs set for each of the partitions ~~means for monitoring input/output performance of each partition~~, means for automatically changing said prescribed input/output ratio of the input/output means for ~~[[said]]~~ each of the partitions without mediation of an operator when the input/output performance of said partition~~[[s]]~~ falls to a prescribed level set according to a service level agreement.
6. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 5, further comprising means

for recording time used by a user for having increased input/output allocation for partitions and means for billing additional charge to the user of said partition according to results recorded by said means for recording.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer comprising:

one or more CPUs;

a main memory; and

one or more input/output means, wherein

said computer is ~~capable of being~~ divided into a plurality of partitions,

said computer further comprises means for controlling allocation of the input/output means for each of the partitions by setting an allocation ratio of the input/output means for each of the partitions independently from an allocation ratio of the CPUs set for each of the partitions, means for comparing ~~processing capability~~ input/output performance of each partition with a prescribed lower limit ~~capability~~ level of the partition according to SLA (Service Level Agreement), means for determining whether said ~~capability~~ input/output performance is less than the lower limit ~~capability level~~ level is caused by a CPU bound or an input/output bound ~~according to CPU performance and input/output performance of the partition~~, and means for increasing input/output allocation to said partition when the input/output bound caused said ~~capability~~ input/output performance to drop to the lower limit ~~capability level~~ level and there is surplus in input/output performance of other partitions.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 7, further comprising means for recording, when the case is the input/output bound and no surplus of input/output performance is found in other partitions, that SLA has not been maintained, and means for reducing a charge billed to a user according to results recorded by said means for recording.

9. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 2, further comprising means for transmitting the monitored result of the input/output performance to an external computer, and means for changing input/output allocation of said computer according to SLA as determined and requested by said external computer.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 5, further comprising means for changing input/output allocation of each partition in proportion to CPU allocation for said partition.
11. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 5, wherein input/output allocation for a partition is changed according to said means for monitoring performance of each partition, said monitored result, and conditions prescribed by a user.
12. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 5, further comprising means for interrupting communication conducted by a first partition after data of a prescribed size has been transmitted, means for changing over to communication that another partition requests after said interruption, and means for resuming the communication of the first partition after the data of the prescribed size has been sent through the communication of said another partition.
13. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 5, further comprising means for dynamically changing an input/output adapter to which each partition can gain access.
- 14-17. (Cancelled)
18. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 2, wherein input/output allocation for a partition is changed according to said means for monitoring performance of each partition, said monitored result, and conditions prescribed by a user.
19. (Previously Presented) A computer as claimed in claim 7, further comprising means for interrupting communication conducted by a first partition after data of a prescribed size has been transmitted, means for changing over to communication that another partition requests after said interruption, and means for resuming the communication of the first partition after the data of the prescribed size has been sent through the communication of said another partition.

20. (New) A computer system comprising:
- one or more CPUs;
 - a main memory;
 - one or more input/output means;
 - a software means for logically dividing the computer system into a plurality of partitions each of which includes a subset of the CPUs that works independently from the remaining CPUs or under a time-sharing manner with the remaining CPUs, a subset of the main memory, and a subset of the input/output means;
 - means for setting an allocation ratio of the input/output means for each of the partitions independently from an allocation ratio of the CPUs set for each of the partitions;
 - monitoring means to monitor values of input/output performance of each of the partitions, and
 - means for changing the allocation ratio of the input/output means for a partition, when a monitored value of the input/output performance of said partition falls to a prescribed level set according to a service level agreement.
21. (New) A computer system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said monitored values of the input/output performance includes at least one of a latency before transmission, a quantity of data transmitted, a latency before receiving, and a quantity of data received.
22. (New) A computer system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said means for setting an allocation ratio sets a number of packets that each of the partitions is allowed to continuously send and receive.